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Message Text

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61
ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 OC-06 CCO-00 ABF-01 OPR-02

MMO-01 NSC-05 /042 W
---------- 064679
R 111605Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4887

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FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY EAGLEBURGER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ACOM TS
SUBJECT: TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC

RED: STATE 276948

1. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR MESSAGE, I ASKED MY STAFF TO LOOK INTO OUR RECORD ON HOLDING DOWN TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC. I FIND THAT OUTGOING STATE PROGRAM TRAFFIC (GROUPS) WAS 28 PERCENT HIGHER IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1976 THAN IN THIRD QUARTER OF 1975 (THE INCREASE IN STATE ADMINISTRATIVE TRAFFIC WAS IN THE SAME RANGE). AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THE VOLUME OF STATE PROGRAM TRAFFIC RECEIVED, MOST OF WHICH IS FROM WASHINGTON, INCREASED TO 155 PERCENT (WHILE THE VOLUME OF INCOMING STATE ADMINISTRATIVE TRAFFIC ACTUALLY DECLINED).

2. TO PUT THE PICTURE INTO EVEN SHARPER FOCUS, I SHOULD NOTE THAT EVEN DURING THE COMPARABLE PERIOD OF LAST YEAR WE WERE RECEIVING THREEAND A HALF TIMES AS MUCH STATE TRAFFIC AS WE WERE SENDING. LAST QUARTER WE RECEIVED SEVEN TIMES AS MUCH STATE TRAFFIC AS WE SENT. IN OTHER WORDS, WITHIN 12 MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN A DOUBLING IN THE RATIO OF TRAFFIC IN TO TRAFFIC OUT.

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3. WHILE I WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO KEEP OUTGOING

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TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC TO THE MINIMUM, I THINK THERE IS
PRIMA FACIE TOWDENCE THAT THE INCREASE IN OUTGOING
TRAFFIC, AT LEAST AT THIS MISSION, HAS BEEN LARGELY
GENERATED BY THE VOLUME OF INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED.
IF THIS EMBASSY IS AT ALL CHARACTERISTIC, THEN I THINK THE
ADMONITION IN PARA SIX OF YOUR MESSAGE ON "REVIEWING
CAREFULLY REQUESTS WHICH LEAD TO MORE REPORTING FROM
THE FIELD" IS PARTICULARLY TO THE POINT.
MULCAHY

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